

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 ACDA-19 AID-20

NIC-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 /184 W
----- 049662

R 210900Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11677

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SUBJECT: PRG VISIT TO PEKING

SUMMARY: DURING THE VISIT OF NGUYEN HUU THO TO PEKING THE CHINESE WERE CAREFUL ON THE AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL TO AVOID ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRG'S MOST PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WERE MOST PROMINENT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND THE U.S. ROLE IN ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH AN ECONOMIC AID AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE VISIT DID NOT IN THE EYES OF THE PRG ACHIEVE "GOOD RESULTS." END SUMMARY.

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1. AS INTERNATIONAL SPECULATION INCREASED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF

A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, PRG PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO PEKING (NOV 18-21). IN HIS SPEECHES IN THE CHINESE CAPITAL, THO STRESSED THE "CURRENT SERIOUS SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM," VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED ALLEGED U.S. VIOLATIONS AND WARNED THAT THE LIBERATION FORCES WERE "ENDOWED WITH THE RIGHT TO ADOPT RESOLUTE MEASURES" TO "STRIKE BACK" IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE LIBERATED AREAS. IN CONTRAST, ELITE CHINESE COMMENT, INCLUDING SPEECHES BY CHOU EN-LAI AND WU TEH, AND A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL OF NOV. 18 PAINTED A MORE POSITIVE AND RELATIVELY TRANQUIL PICTURE. CHOU EMPHASIZED THAT THO'S VISIT CAME AT A TIME WHEN "A NEW SITUATION" HAD BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE "GREAT VICTORY" IN VIETNAM. IMPLYING A LONG-TERM VIEW TOWARD ACHIEVING POLITICAL GOALS, THE PREMIER SAID THAT "AN ACUTE AND COMPLEX STRUGGLE" WAS NECESSARY TO SECURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT EVEN REPEAT HIS STATEMENT OF LAST JUNE DURING THE DRV'S LEADERS' VISIT THAT THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM HAD NOT YET BEEN STABILIZED.

2. LIKEWISE, PEOPLE'S DAILY WHILE ATTACKING SAIGON'S "NIBBLING ATTACKS" GAVE NO INDICATION THAT A RENEWAL OF THE CONFLICT WAS POSSIBLE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND IT EMPHASIZED SUCCESSFUL RECONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE "LIBERATED AREAS." CHINESE SPOKESMEN ALSO AVOIDED REPEATING THO'S REFERENCES TO THE GOAL OF "COMPLETE VICTORY." INSTEAD THE CHINESE SIDE REITERATED CONFIDENCE THAT A "PEACEFUL, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROSPEROUS SOUTH VIETNAM" AND EVENTUALLY PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION WOULD BECOME REALITIES.

3. ALTHOUGH THO CALLED ON ALL GOVERNMENTS AND IN PARTICULAR THE SIGNATORIES TO THE ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM TO DEMAND THAT THE U.S. AND SAIGON STRICTLY OBSERVE THE PARIS AGREEMENT, CHO AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF THE U.S. ROLE IN ALLEGED VIOLATIONS. PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTED ONLY THAT "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LIKEWISE HAS THE UNSHIRKABLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT." THIS WAS A PHRASE WHICH CHOU HIMSELF HAD EMPLOYED DURING THE DRV VISIT LAST JUNE.

4. HOWEVER, AN NCNA ARTICLE OF NOV 19 STRUCK A RELATIVELY BELLIGERENT TONE. NCNA CHARGED THAT THE U.S. AS WELL AS THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION HAVE VIOLATED THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE U.S. SIDE WAS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH KEEPING 20,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL IN VIETNAM UNDER A CONFIDENTIAL

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CIVILIAN CLOAK AND WITH ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY SUPPLIES INTO THE COUNTRY. IN THE ONLY ECHO OF THO'S OMINOUS WARNINGS THE DAY BEFORE, NCNA DESCRIBED THE "FIERCE COUNTER ATTACKS" LAUNCHED BY THE LIBERATION ARMY, AND PROCLAIMED THAT BECAUSE OF THE VIOLATIONS "ANew STRUGGLE IS IN STORE...TO SAFEGUARD (THE) FRUITS OF VICTORY."

5. IN HIS FIRST BANQUET SPEECH OF NOV 18 THO WAS EFFUSIVE IN HIS

PRAISE OF THE "TREMENDOUS, MANIFOLD AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE" GIVE
BY CHINA IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, IN HIS FAREWELL SPEECH OF NOV 20
ALTHOUGH THO MENTIONED THE NEW AGREEMENT OON CHINA'S "GRATUITOUS
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE" TO THE PRG FOR 1974 (HONG KONG 11676 HE
APPEARED TO DESCRIBE THE RESULTS OF HIS CURRENT VISIT WITH SOME
RESTRAINT. HE SAID THE DELEGATION HAD SPENT " A NICE TIME" IN
PEKING . (MADAM BINH HAD DESCRIBED HER VISIT IN DEC., 1972, AS
HAVING ACHIEVED "GOOD RESULTS.") THO ALSO DID NOT CHARACTERIZE THE
ATMOSPHERE OF HIS MEETINGS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS. (NCNA REFERRED
TO THEM IN MAXIMUM TERMS AS "MOST CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY.") CHINESE
PLEDGES OF SUPPORT ISSUED DURING THE VISIT WERE ROUTINE THOUGH MAO,
IN
HIS USUAL DELPHIC MANNER, PROMISED THO IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NOV 19
MEETING THAT " WE SHOULD SUPPORT YOU, WITH EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER."
OSBORN

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